के अनुसार एन टी सी मिलों के साथ-साथ उसकी अधिग्रहीत मिलों को आधुनिकीकरण द्वारा अर्धक्षम बनाया जा सकता है ।

एन टी सी के लिये एक सर्वांगीण सुधार योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है । चूंकि एन टी सी के 8 सहायक निगमों के मामले औद्योगिक तथा वित्तीय पुनर्निर्माण बोर्ड को भेजे ग ये हैं, इसलिये किसी भी योजना को अंतिम रूप देने के लिये उसको क्रियान्वित करने से पहले वी आई एफ आर की सहमति भी प्राप्त करनी होगी ।

(ग) और (घ) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान सरकार ने जनवरी, 1995 तक की अवधि के लिये एन टी सी को मजदूरी, वेतन, बोनस आदि के भुगतान के लिये अभी तक 124 करोड़ रु० की राशि निवेष की है ।

Foreign print media entry

*7. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have now decided to allow foreign print media to operate from India;

(b) if so, the names of foreign print media operators allowed to operate;

(c) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the interests of local media;

(d) whether Government have also drawn any guidelines to safeguard national interests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Hike in Excise Duty

*8. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some laundry soap manufacturers in Delhi had increased the prices of their products from 1st March, 1994 on the levy of excise duty on washing soap.

(b) whether Government are also aware that some of those manufacturers had withdrawn the excise duty hike from their prices;

(c) whether none of these manufacturers were entitled to charge the Central excise;

(d) if so. the details in this regard;

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (f) It has been reported that some laundry soap manufacturers had increased their prices after 1-3-94 and some of them had, later, reduced their prices. It has also been reported that the increase in the prices were inter alia, related to increase in the cost of raw material and other inputs.

There is no legal mechanism to ensure that reduction in excise duty is fully reflected in the prices where there is no price control. If, however, a manufacturer collects any amount as representing the duty of Excise, he is obliged to deposit the same with the exchequer.

Loans to Agro-based Industries

*9. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out or propose to chalk out any program-

me to provide loans from nationalised banks to agro-based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been issuing guidelines from time to time to all nationalised banks regarding advances to be extended to agriculture and allied activities, non-farm activities including agriculture based industries. The requirements of credit for such activities are being met by the banks based on the size of operation, nature of activities, their viability and unit cost fixed by the technical committees at the district level. The refinance assistance is made available by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to the financing banks for setttng up of agro processing and/or for integrated agricultural projects which have investment components for processing activities. The refinance is provided to the extent of 90 per cent of term loans for 100 per cent export oriented units and at 75 per cent in respect of other units.

Faulty telephones in Delhi

*10. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the persistent faults in Delhi Telephones;

(b) whether it is a fact that instead of getting the required call, the consumers hear the recorded message that 'this telephone number does not exist' particularly in Janpath Exchange;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of complaints are not being attended to by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps are being taken in this direction and whether the subscribers will be refunded licence fee of the period for which their phones remain out of order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. In such cases, special attention is paid by arranging inspection of the affected telephones.

(b) and (c) Sir, Complaints of the subscriber are being given due attention and faulty telephones are being set right promptly. Only in case of cable breakdowns, the time taken is little longer. In such cases, the subscribers are being informed about the delay

(d) With a view of enhancing customer satisfaction old technology exchanges and cables are progressively being replaced by new technology equipment and in addition rebate in rental is given when telephone services are interrupted/suspended continuously for seven or more days.

Dharna by GIC and LIC employees

*11. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American insurance delegation visited India to have discussions with Government on the privatisation of insurance industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome of the visit;

(c) whether the employees of LIC and GIC staged a dharna outside the Jeevan Bharti building in New Delhi on 30th January protesting